

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A dry expanding tampon pledget comprising:

a plurality of non-absorbent fibers; and

a plurality of absorbent fibers, wherein said plurality of non-absorbent fibers and said plurality of absorbent fibers are blended together to form the dry expanding tampon pledget, and

C1 wherein immediately after complete ejection from an applicator, and prior to contact with menses, the dry expanding tampon pledget has a free diameter at a widest point from about 25% to about 300% larger than a diameter of the dry expanding tampon pledget in the applicator.

2. (Original) The tampon pledget of claim 1, wherein a percent ratio of said plurality of non-absorbent fibers to said plurality of absorbent fibers is about 25/75 to about 65/35.

3. (Original) The tampon pledget of claim 1, wherein said plurality of non-absorbent fibers are selected from the group consisting of polyester, polypropylene, polyethylene, aramid, nylon, acrylic, bicomponent, and mixtures thereof.

4. (Withdrawn) The tampon pledget of claim 1, wherein said plurality of non-absorbent fibers are bicomponent fibers.

5. (Original) The tampon pledget of claim 1, wherein said plurality of non-absorbent fibers are polyester fibers.

6. (Withdrawn) The tampon pledget of claim 1, wherein said plurality of non-absorbent fibers have a hydrophilic finish.

7. (Original) The tampon pledget of claim 1, wherein said plurality of non-absorbent fibers are about 0.75 to about 30 denier.

C/ 8. (Original) The tampon pledget of claim 1, wherein said plurality of absorbent fibers are made of cellulosic fibers.

9. (Original) The tampon pledget of claim 1, wherein said plurality of absorbent fibers are selected from the group consisting of rayon, lyocell, woodpulp, cotton, superabsorbent, and mixtures thereof.

10. (Original) The tampon pledget of claim 1, wherein said plurality of absorbent fibers are rayon.

11. (Original) The tampon pledget of claim 1, wherein said plurality of absorbent fibers are selected from the group consisting of rayon, superabsorbent, and combinations thereof.

12. (Previously presented) The tampon pledget of claim 1, wherein said plurality of absorbent fibers is a combination of rayon and superabsorbent fiber, and wherein a ratio of rayon fiber to superabsorbent fiber is about 70/30.

13. (Original) The tampon pledget of claim 1, wherein the plurality of absorbent fibers are about 0.75 to about 30 denier.

C | 14. (Original) The tampon pledget of claim 1, further comprising a coverstock.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Previously presented) A dry expanding tampon pledget comprising:

a plurality of non-absorbent fibers; and

a plurality of absorbent fibers, wherein said plurality of non-absorbent fibers and said plurality of absorbent fibers are blended together to form the dry expanding tampon pledget,

wherein a percent ratio of said plurality of non-absorbent fibers to said plurality of absorbent fibers is about 25/75 to about 65/35, and

wherein immediately after complete ejection from an applicator, and prior to contact with menses, the dry expanding tampon pledget has a free diameter at a widest point from about 25% to about 300% larger than a diameter of the dry expanding tampon pledget in the applicator.

17. (Original) The tampon pledget of claim 16, wherein said plurality of absorbent fibers are made of a combination of rayon fibers and superabsorbent fibers.

18. (Previously presented) A dry expanding tampon pledget comprising:

a plurality of non-absorbent fibers, wherein said plurality of non-absorbent fibers are selected from the group consisting of polyester, polypropylene, polyethylene, aramid, nylon, acrylic, bicomponent, and mixtures thereof; and

a plurality of absorbent fibers, wherein said plurality of absorbent fibers are selected from the group consisting of rayon, lyocell, wood pulp, cotton, superabsorbent, and any combinations thereof,

C1 wherein said plurality of non-absorbent fibers and said plurality of absorbent fibers are blended together to form the dry expanding tampon pledget, and

wherein immediately after complete ejection from an applicator, and prior to contact with menses, the dry expanding tampon pledget has a free diameter at a widest point from about 25% to about 300% larger than a diameter of the dry expanding tampon pledget in the applicator.

19. (Original) The tampon pledget of claim 18, wherein a percent ratio of said plurality of non-absorbent fibers to said plurality of absorbent fibers is about 25/75 to about 65/35.

20. (Previously presented) The tampon pledget of claim 18, wherein said plurality of absorbent fibers are made of a combination of rayon fibers and superabsorbent fibers.

21. (Previously presented) The tampon pledget of claim 20, wherein a percent ratio of rayon fibers to superabsorbent fibers is about 70/30.

22. (New) A dry expanding tampon pledget comprising:

a plurality of non-absorbent fibers, wherein said plurality of non-absorbent fibers are selected from the group consisting of polyester, polypropylene, polyethylene, aramid, nylon, acrylic, bicomponent, and any combinations thereof; and

a plurality of absorbent fibers made of a combination of rayon fibers and superabsorbent fibers,

C2 wherein said plurality of non-absorbent fibers and said plurality of absorbent fibers are blended together to form the dry expanding tampon pledget, and

wherein immediately after complete ejection from an applicator, and prior to contact with menses, the dry expanding tampon pledget has a free diameter at a widest point from about 25% to about 300% larger than a diameter of the dry expanding tampon pledget in the applicator.
